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ABSTRACT

A closed-loop focusing system and method positions a focusing assembly to a desired position. A feedback positioning device, such as a linear encoder, provides an actual or "read" value for the linear movement of the focusing assembly. The desired position is compared to the actual position of the focusing assembly. If the two values are outside of a predetermined tolerance or valid range, then an audible or visual warning will be given. Furthermore, when a laser source is utilized with the focusing system, then laser operation will be prevented where the two values are outside of tolerance.

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